C F P

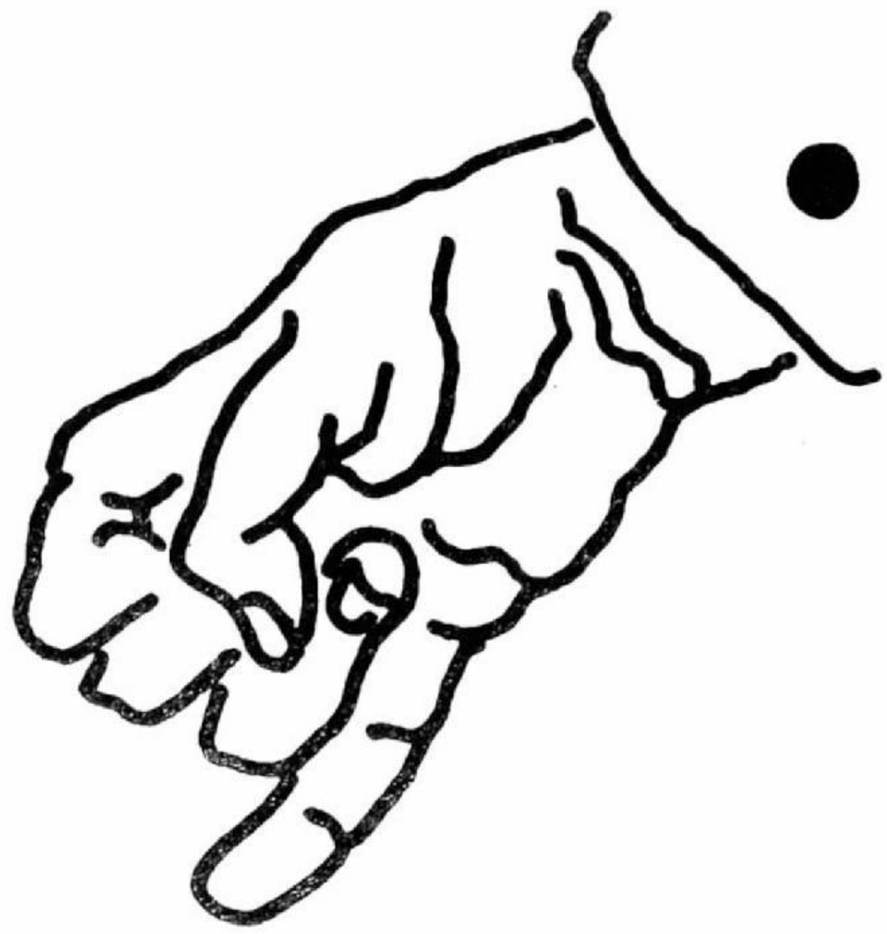
COMMITTEE to FINGER the PATSY

[redacted] President

[redacted] Vice-President

[redacted] Secretary-
Treasurer

Summer 1978



COMMITTEE to FINGER the PATSY having

fingered Patsy #1: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
and Patsy #2: JAMES EARL RAY
and having long and diligently, acting on tips, advice and counsel of those who assisted in fingering the first two has finally found the only man who knows that

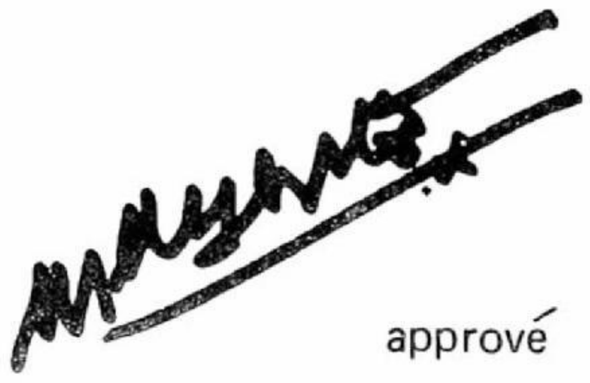
#1 plus #2 can only equal #3

As the MOB's man inside the House Select Committee on Assassinations;
As the man who arranged for the FBI and CIA to decide whom he may or may not hire to investigate the FBI and CIA, quietly annulling the CIA's marriage of convenience with the MOB:
As the man who convinced HSCA members that by looking at everything bassackwards with opaque lenses in the microscope and with a handy bucket of whitewash ready for instant application, the possibility of ever accepting conspiracy in the assassination of President John Kennedy and the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King would fade away;
As the man who knows the limits of reasonable doubt and can manipulate them to suit his fancy:
As the man who has convinced himself and those near him that coverup is the best of two worlds:

C F P Fingers

Patsy Number Three: G ROBERT BLAKEY, HSCA Chief Counsel

and thanks him for his assistance in this matter:
he finger(s)ed himself



apprové

North American Affiliate
Société Pimpernel Escarlatte
(underground since 1789)

(Richmond News-Leader, 9-11-78)

TRUTH.... # FBI Agent Says Panel Doesn't Want True Story

DALLAS (UPI) — Saying he would "drop bombs" if called to testify publicly on what he knows about the assassination of President Kennedy, an FBI agent says congressional investigators do not want him to tell the true story.

"If they are going to try and contain this (assassination investigation) like the Church (Senate Intelligence) committee and the Warren Comission, they don't want me up there," FBI agent James P. Hosty was quoted as saying in a copyrighted article in the Dallas Morning News.

HAS DOUBTS

Hosty said he would "drop bombs" if called to testify during the House Assassinations Committe's public hearings, but he doubted if he would be called because "I'm sure ... they know everything ... the whole story."

Hosty, whose name, automobile license and telephone number were found in Lee Harvey Oswald's personal notebook upon his arrest following Kennedy's death, was the FBI agent in Dallas who monitored Oswald's activities before the Nov. 22, 1963, assassination.

NEAR RETIREMENT

Transferred in 1964 to the Kansas City, Mo., FBI office where he now is approaching retirement, Hosty also is the agent quoted in a top-level agency memo issued hours after the president's death as saying the FBI had known Oswald was capable of killing Kennedy.

Hosty said he spent 30 hours telling what he called the "true assassination story" to the Senate Intelligence Comittee, but was invited to testify for 3½ hours before the House committee only after he asked why he had not been called.

'ALL DONE'

Hosty said House committee investigators last month gave him the impression they were "all done with the investigation and they were writing the report (due in December) — that they were not opening any new grounds any more."

"It looked like they (members of the House committee) were trying to avoid me," he said. "In fact, they almost didn't call me."

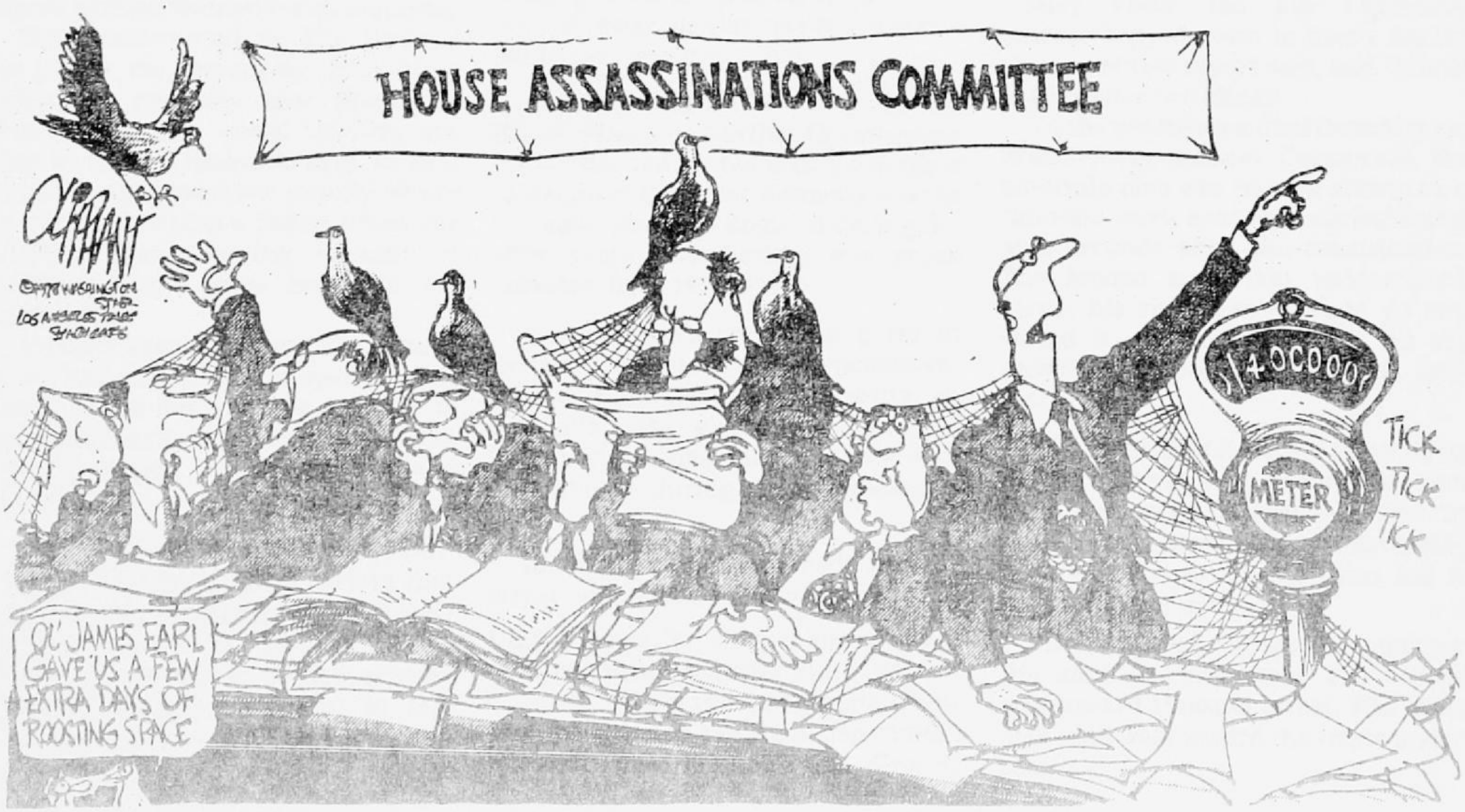
Hosty's name and other information were in a notebook Oswald had when arrested, but the FBI did not disclose the fact to the Warren Commission in its initial reports on the notebook. The FBI finally made the admission in a "supplemental" report on Feb. 11, 1964 — only after it had been reported by various news agencies.

LEFT A NOTE

In 1975, it was reported Oswald left a threatening note at the Dallas FBI office two weeks before Kennedy was killed. Hosty told reporters the note warned Oswald "would take action against the FBI ... if I did not stop talking to his wife." Hosty said the note was ordered destroyed two days after the assassination by J. Gordon Shanklin, then special agent in charge of the FBI in Dallas.

Shanklin, now retired, has denied he knew about the note from Oswald.

IS STRANGER (AND FUNNIER) THAN FICTION.



'Send in the next of our justification-for-existing witnesses, please. . . .'

(Dallas Morning News, 8-12-78)

'Umbrella man' identified?

Panel plans to question Dallasite during JFK probe

By EARL GOLZ
©The Dallas Morning News, 1978

A man identified as the so-called "umbrella man," whom the House Assassinations Committee wants to question and the subject of speculation by assassination researchers for 15 years, was located and interviewed by The News this week.

A former co-worker of L. Steven Witt identified him as the person who was photographed opening and closing an umbrella in Dealey Plaza about the time President John Kennedy was assassinated at 12:30 p.m. Nov. 22, 1963.

A House Assassinations Committee spokesman said Friday that investigators are planning to question Witt, who told The News earlier this week he had never been interviewed by any governmental agents in connection with the assassination. Witt said he would not object to talking to committee investigators.

L. Steven Witt (right) . . . reportedly the "umbrella man" (left).

A PHOTOGRAPH of the umbrella man, sitting on a curb in Dealey Plaza seconds after the assassination, was distributed by the committee July 30 with four other photographs and drawings of persons wanted for questioning.

Witt, interviewed by The News at his job in the warehouse of a filing equipment company near Stemmons Freeway, neither would confirm nor deny he was the umbrella man. He said he could not remember exactly where he was in downtown Dallas when the president was shot but thought he probably would have been on his lunch hour.

Assassination researchers have speculated the umbrella opening and closing — on the sidewalk adjacent to the president's limousine wnen the shooting started — could have been a signal.

WITT'S FORMER fellow employee, however, said he is fairly certain that Witt was only protesting the Kennedy family's history in foreign policy matters. The former co-worker, now an insurance executive, agreed to talk about Witt on the condition he remain anonymous.

He said Witt told him the umbrella was a symbol of "protest" and was connected somehow with Joseph Kennedy, the father of the president, and the senior Kennedy's appeasement policies toward Nazi Germany in the late 1930s.

When Witt returned to his office four blocks from Dealey Plaza after witnessing the assassination from only a few feet away, he was "visibly shaken," the former co-worker said.

JOSEPH KENNEDY and British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain were criticized for not taking a tougher line against the Nazis. Kennedy was the U.S. ambassador to England during the same years Chamberlain was prime minister, from 1937 to 1940.

Chamberlain's opposition party in Britain protested his appeasement toward Nazi Germany by using an umbrella as a symbol because Chamberlain constantly was seen with an umbrella during public appearances.

In 1963, President Kennedy was the target of similar criticism in the United States for alleged appeasement of Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro.

At the time of the assassination, Witt was employed in the stock department of the now defunct Rio Grande National Life Insurance Co., at Elm and Field streets.

ACCUSED ASSASSIN Lee Harvey Oswald walked from the Texas School Book Depository Building after the assassination and boarded a bus at Elm and Field, the Warren Commission has reported. As it headed back toward Dealey Plaza, the bus reportedly became bogged down in heavy traffic, the committee report said, and Oswald got out after two blocks.

In the photograph distributed by the House Assassinations Committee, the umbrella man can be seen sitting on a sidewalk curb next to a dark-skinned man seconds after the assassination. The second man, still unidentified, thrust his right arm straight up and waved it after the first shot hit the president, photographs and film indicate.

THE UMBRELLA MAN was joined on the curb by the second man after closing his umbrella immediately after the shots. Both appear to be conversing calmly as people around them fall to the ground for cover.

After sitting a few seconds together, the umbrella man stood and walked east toward Houston street. The other man goes west toward the triple underpass.

Dallas Morning News, 8-7-78

Oswald allegedly given envelope

By EARL GOLZ

Adrian Alba Sr. of New Orleans has told investigators for the House Assassinations Committee he saw an FBI agent give accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald an envelope through the window of one of the government cars parked under contract in Alba's auto storage garage.

Alba, who was acquainted with Oswald when the alleged incident occurred in the summer of 1963, told The News he had never seen the FBI agent before or after the alleged Oswald contact.

Oswald frequently visited Alba's garage office, which was next door to the coffee company where Oswald was working.

ALBA SAID the FBI agent checked out a Secret Service car from Alba's garage because no FBI cars were available at the time. It was the same green Studebaker, he asserted, from which Oswald was handed the large envelope one day later in front of the coffee company.

Alba said he told committee investigators he checked out the car to a man who showed credentials as an FBI agent from Washington, D.C., "who was flown down and needed a vehicle." He said he "wouldn't remember his name, even what he looked like."

Oswald left the coffee company building and "at the same time he's going across the banquette (sidewalk), the car pulls up and stops," Alba said.

"THEN AS THE CAR pulls up, Oswald bends down as if to look in the window and is handed what appeared to be a good-sized envelope, a white envelope. . . . (Oswald) turns and bends as he does it as if to hold it (envelope) to his abdomen, in which I would imagine would go under the T-shirt that he always wore outside of his khaki pants.

"He turns in this bent position and hustles on off across the banquette and back to the building, straightening up as he crosses the banquette and his hands are free."

The purported FBI agent kept the Secret Service car about four or five days before returning it to the garage, Alba told committee investigators.

Oswald and the same car had another "timed rendezvous" at the same spot about two days after the first one, he said, but only words were exchanged.

"I'M NO DRAMATIST and I'm no fabricator," the 47-year-old Alba said. "I never have been. I've always tried to walk the straight and narrow. I have tried to avoid as much publicity with the thing as possible."

Oswald visited frequently with Alba in his garage office from May 6 to July 19, 1963, when he worked at the William B. Reily Coffee Co. next door. Alba, an avid gun collector, talked guns with Oswald and loaned him his gun magazines, some of which were found in Oswald's apartment after the assassination.

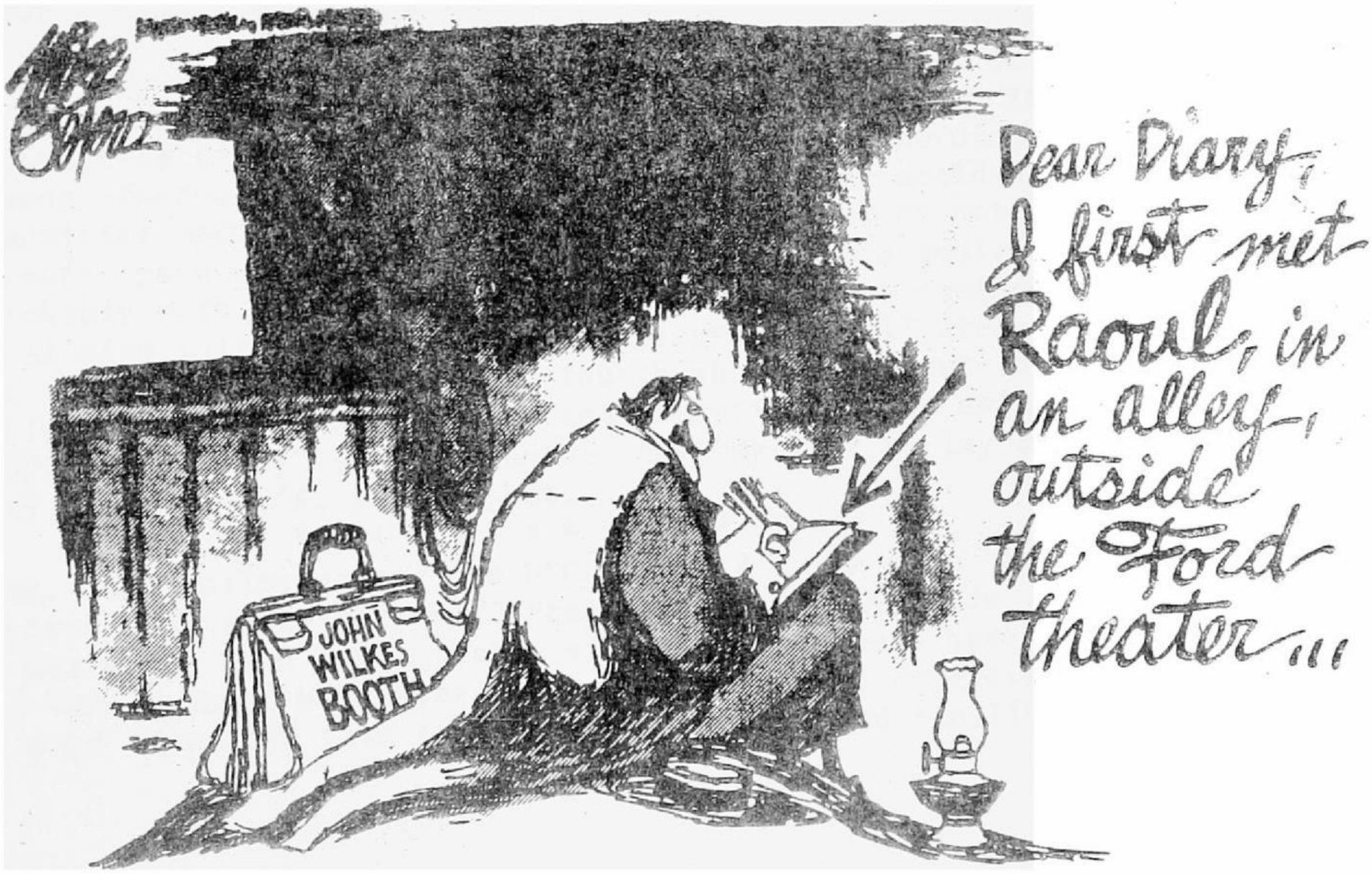
Alba did not mention the envelope incident to two FBI agents who interviewed him a day after the assassination, he said, because he hadn't remembered it until years later when a television commercial reminded him of the exchange. By that time, he said, speculation was rife that Oswald had been an FBI informant.

HE TOLD COMMITTEE investigators who deposed him that he would take "truth serum" or a lie detector test, he said, but they "told me that wasn't necessary."

Former FBI agent Warren de Brueys, who monitored Oswald's movements in New Orleans in 1963 before the assassination, said it "sounds sort of asinine" for an FBI agent to drive a Secret Service car because the FBI in New Orleans "had our own garage, separate and apart from" the Secret Service.

"I don't know if that's ever happened where an FBI agent would be driving a Secret Service car," de Brueys said. "I am not saying it couldn't happen, but the odds were a million-to-one against those sort of facts existing."

"Are we supposed to be like history?"
—*Arthur Lee*



MORE NEWS

Those of you who were lucky enough (or unlucky enough -- take your pick) to catch the HSCA's "questioning" of James Earl Ray in late August are probably aware that "prosecution" would be a better term for it. The Committee seems bent on a "Ray family" conspiracy, and the odd timing of a parole for one of James Earl Ray's brothers, John Larry Ray, the week after the testimony, raises the distinct possibility that John Larry will testify against James Earl. Or already has. THE GRASSY KNOLL GAZETTE has learned that the HSCA's report was written some months ago. From there, it was only a matter of finding the right kind of "experts" -- those who would give testimony to back up what was already written in the report.

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Eight out of nine doctors agree! This bullet (CE 399) passed through JFK's back, exited his throat, paused and veered to the right, ripped through Gov. Connally's thorax, smashed a rib, shattered his right wrist, and finally embedded itself, spent, in the Governor's left femur, only to turn up later at Parkland Hospital, on a stretcher that had been used for another patient unrelated to the Kennedy/Connally shooting. Furthermore, this bullet suffered a "severe flattening" that is not evident to the naked eye! And if that's not enough for all you critics, who never seem to be satisfied, it's also the world's fastest little home cole slaw maker!

The lone dissenter on the panel was Dr. Cyril Wecht. The news media have somehow neglected to mention that Dr. Wecht is a former President of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, and has been a student of the JFK case for more than 10 years, a distinction so far unclaimed by any other members of the panel; with the exception of Wecht and Dr. Michael Baden, the panel's spokesman, the other 7 members have retained their anonymity.

Dr. Wecht's dissent was emphatic and struck amazingly close to the heart of the matter. Saying he could never subscribe to the single-bullet theory, Dr. Wecht went on to say, "Once you eliminate the single-bullet theory, you're in the area of two persons involved. You're in the area of conspiracy. You're in the area of coup d'etat. And the government cannot allow that conclusion."

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Next witness. On September 11, the Committee heard testimony from Dr. James Barger of the acoustical research firm Bolt, Beranek and Newman. The firm was hired by the Committee to analyze a piece of a tape made, according to both AP and UPI, among others, "when a motorcycle police officer accidentally left his radio transmitter open for about 5½ minutes." (Whether or not this was an "accident" is pure speculation.) Dr. Barger said the firm's analysis indicated four shots, probably with the first, second and fourth shots coming from the rear, and the alleged third shot coming from the grassy knoll area. According to Barger, the time between the third and fourth shots was about .5 seconds. Under questioning, however, Barger was forced to retreat to an estimate that there was a "50% probability" of four shots. Anybody want to lay $4 million on an even bet? Not the HSCA, you can bet.

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Next witness. The following day the HSCA trotted out a team of anonymous (!) "photo experts" who testified that "President John F. Kennedy and John B. Connally were seated in such a way that a single bullet could have wounded both of them at the time Kennedy was assassinated, according to congressional sources." GKG's sources said they took this to mean that the HSCA had finally located the

several volumes of the Encyclopedia Brittanica that the President had to have been sitting on to make this shot possible.

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The members of the House panel have done the most amazing work in the short time alloted to them. It was also reported, on September 12, that Professor Blakey "introduced surprise testimony that staff members and experts had gotten off two shots with a separation of only 1.65 to 1.75 seconds and three shots within 2 seconds and 2.125 seconds."

Surprise indeed. Blakey also said, "It would seem that the FBI assumption of a minimum firing time of 2.25 or 2.3 seconds is questionable and will have to be verified." Blakey has obviously done his homework on this case. Now, how about some moving targets, gentlemen?

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Died: Thomas H. Karamessines, 61, chief of the CIA's covert operations division from 1967 to 1973, when he retired. Karamessines, with the CIA since it was established in 1947, died of a reported "heart attack" at his vacation home in Grand Lake, Quebec on Monday, September 4, but his death was not reported until Friday, September 8.

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According to a copyrighted story by Earl Golz in the August 18, 1978 edition of the Dallas Morning News, a former poker-playing partner of Jack Ruby claims that Ruby was running guns from Galveston Bay, Texas, to Fidel Castro's Cuban guerrillas as early as 1957. James E. Beaird said he waited until 1966, almost three years after President Kennedy's assassination and "nothing had come out so I called them (FBI) just to find out why... I was curious. However, they didn't see fit to even mention it to me again, so I never heard of anything they ever opened up on it."

Beaird said the FBI finally "sent a man out in 1976. I don't know why they did it then." He told the FBI he "personally saw many boxes of new guns, including automatic rifles and handguns," stored in a two-story house near the channel at Kemah and loaded on what looked like a 50-foot surplus military boat.

Beaird also said that "each time that the boat left with guns and ammunition, Jack Ruby was on the boat," according to the FBI report.

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Another provocative story by Golz in the July 15 edition of the Dallas Morning News relates that Dallas Detective Gus Rose told HSCA investigators that he found a German Minox camera, loaded with film, among Lee Harvey Oswald's possessions at the Irving, Texas home of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Paine, where Marina had been staying, and where Lee had stored most of his belongings. Rose said he found the camera on either November 22 or 23, 1963, after Oswald's arrest for the murder of the President.

The Minox is a miniature spy camera. Rose said the FBI initially tried to pressure him into reporting that he had found a Minox light meter instead of a Minox camera. Two months later, the FBI placed into their records a Minox camera which they said was not Oswald's. The FBI claimed they obtained a Minox camera which belonged to Michael Paine from Mrs. Paine on Jan. 31, 1964, and that the serial number was 27259.

According to Kurt Lohn, who was at that time in charge of distribution for Minox Corp. in New York City, all Minox cameras distributed in this country had six digits starting with serial number 13500, so 27259 "is not a registered number... not a valid number."

A Dallas FBI inventory of property taken from the Paine home, dated Nov. 26, 1963, listed "one Minox camera" under item number 375. The inventory was witnessed by FBI agent Warren DeBrueys and Dallas Police Capt. J.M. English.

A second FBI inventory, dated Nov. 27, 1963, after DeBrueys and another FBI agent, Vincent Drain, delivered the Oswald property to the FBI laboratory in Washington, D.C., however, lists no camera under item 375. The words "Minox light meter" appear instead!

In the Nov. 26 inventory, under item 377, were listed 2 rolls of undeveloped Minox film and 2 rolls of "apparently exposed" Minox film. Under the Nov. 27 inventory, the same number read two Minox cassettes or rolls "(one containing film)" and two containers with "unexposed" Minox film!

Which inventory is accurate, you ask? Evidently it was the Nov. 26 one. Earl Golz broke another blockbuster story in the Dallas Morning News on August 7, when he reported that the FBI, in response to a Freedom of Information suit by A.J. Weberman, released about 25 photographs from two rolls taken with the Minox camera.

About 20 shots from one of the rolls are of civilian scenes, apparently in Europe, according to Golz. Five shots from the other roll, however, "depict military scenes either in the Far East or Central America."

As a Marine in 1957 and 1958, Lee Harvey Oswald was stationed at Atsugi, Japan, a naval base from which the CIA also launched many of its U-2 flights across Asia and the Soviet Union.

* * * * * * * * * * * * *

According to an August 16 UPI dispatch, Hustler magazine owner Larry Flynt says whoever tried to kill him on March 6 was working either for the CIA or the FBI, and they still want him dead because he knows who really assassinated President John F. Kennedy.

Flynt says the $1 million reward he posted for information leading to the real Kennedy murderers has paid off.

"I know my life may be in jeopardy," he said. "If they kill me, they kill me, but I must give the public the facts."

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Another UPI dispatch, dated August 21, says documents obtained recently by the ACLU show that, in 1961, the FBI funnelled information about two "freedom rider" buses to a Birmingham, Alabama, police sergeant that the Bureau knew was a member of the Ku Klux Klan.

Howard Simon, Michigan ACLU Executive Director, says "The ACLU is charging that the FBI provoked the Klan to carry out terrorist acts against civil rights workers." He said documents show the FBI knew that Sgt. Thomas Cook of the Birmingham Police Department's intelligence branch was passing information the FBI gave him on the activities of civil rights workers to the Klan's leadership.

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THE ADMIRAL NEEDS HIS NAP

Pardee Show Irksome

United Press International

Admiral Hyman Rickover said yesterday he has grave doubts the United States can be run as a pure democracy because a local football program preempted his appearance on CBS' "Face the Nation."

Rickover, head of the Navy's nuclear force, noted the news program was preempted here by Washington Redskin Coach Jack Pardee's weekly pregame football show on WDVM-TV-9.

"My God, that's the biggest event in many years around here," he said. "Naturally, the parents who lok at advertisements, possibly for beer or deodorants, would much rather see and hear the fotball coach talk than to be concerned about the education of their children.

"And yet, right here in the District of Columbia, we have one of the poorest educational systems in the Nnited States . . . and yet the parents would rather hear the fotball coach."

Noting the government and the country are more complex today than any society has ever been, Rickover said: "I have grave doubts a democracy consisting of 218 million people can be run as a pure democracy.

"Yet we are trying still to run it that way. I have very grave doubts about it, and the reason is not the number, the reason is this football game.

Washington Post,
Sept. 4, 1978

What this country needs is a free phone call

(Reprinted from The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, Feb. 1978.)

Now that Ma Bell has us hooked, it's time to start improving the service

Eugene Garfield

It is often stated that telephone service in the United States is the best in the world. By comparison with most other countries, including the United Kingdom, American phone service can seem like heaven. In Scandinavia, while the cost may be higher, the service is comparable. The ability to dial from Stockholm or Oslo to Valencia or Budapest is as technically impressive as dialing from Philadelphia to Albuquerque. And the political achievement it represents is even more impressive.

To help balance the critique which follows (after all, Ma Bell is not *all* bad), it is necessary to observe that it is the very excellence of American telephone service that has made us so dependent on it. The threat of losing it involves fundamental issues of freedom and personal security.

A fire on February 27, 1975 left a 300 block area of Manhattan without telephone service for 23 days! This affected 144,755 phones di-

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Eugene Garfield is the founder and president of the Institute for Scientific Information in Philadelphia, Pa. This article appeared in the September 19, 1977 issue of Current Contents, *a publication of ISI, and is reprinted here with their permission.*

rectly and the entire city indirectly. After the crisis was over interviewers talked to 600 persons who were affected. They found that the telephone was "missed pervasively and neither the exchange of letters nor the one-way flow of mass communications could be made to substitute for the *immediate interaction* provided by the telephone." To the majority of people, "The telephone proved to be a communicative mode for which no satisfactory alternative was available." This is an indirect sociological commentary on the differences between Americans and those who live in Eastern Europe or other places where the telephone is not as accessible or pervasive.

Telephones do not only connect us with friends, loved ones, colleagues and politicians. Today, the telephone provides access to reports on time and temperature, daily astrological forecasts and even hotline updates on the adventures of comic strip heroes. The Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia recently initiated the TEL-MED service, as have other hospitals in the United States. TEL-MED enables you to hear tape-recorded discussions on health care topics including everything from aging to venereal disease. A number of the tapes are even recorded in Spanish. The TEL-MED service is free—with one big exception: you must pay for the cost of the phone call. As far as I'm concerned, that's the point where Ma Bell's special brand of insanity starts to get in the way of information flow.

For example, it used to be a cardinal principle of business that cash payment entitled you to something extra, not less. Yet if I call TEL-MED from a coin-operated phone, not only is the service not free, but in most parts of the United States it costs me more than it costs a person who calls from a private phone, where the payment is deferred until the end of the month. Since it is the poor (including many students) who depend heavily on public coin phones, their ability to use TEL-MED and other "no-cost" information services is significantly reduced. This helps to aggravate the disparities in American income levels.

While I enjoy the luxury of several touch-tone extensions at my home and office, I know that certain younger members of my family cannot afford a private telephone. For thousands of poor people even the dime phone call is a real expense. Unhappily, there are already some places in the United States where the phone company has succeeded in raising this price to 20 cents. I can't help but wonder how the telephone company that serves New Orleans can survive. There, you can still make a local call for a nickel.

The telephone company argues that it costs a lot to collect money through coin phones because of the personnel required to service them and because of vandalism. It is hard to assess the validity of this. The phone company also claims that coin-operated phones cost more because operators must be used to tell you how much to pay. But this is true only for toll calls. Local calls, by definition, should not require any operator assistance. So why are users of local telephone service penalized for other people's operator-assisted calls? I might add that I fail to see the logic of charging coin phone users *more,* even for a cash-payment long-distance call. Perhaps one must acknowledge the cost of vandalism and operator time without regard to the principle that cash should be king over credit.

It is true that on toll calls operators frequently must get involved, but I would like to know why the most advanced telephone system in the world does not yet have an automatic system for collecting money when the feat has been performed in Europe for years. In small towns in Spain there are now public telephones which even return change. And you can call anywhere in Europe from such phones.

If AT&T is going to insist that vandalism is a key problem, I fail to see how raising the price of a local call solves it. On the contrary, it may be time to consider making all public phones free for local use. Whatever loss of cash revenue would result from this move could be made up by eliminating those telephone operators employed to interrupt you so assiduously when three minutes have elapsed. The money collectors who apparently find nothing but empty coin boxes could also be eliminated.

Free public phones would reduce the number of unnecessary calls made from private phones to public ones in order to avoid excessive cash payments. For example, if I telephone Downingtown, just 35 miles from Philadelphia, it costs $1.05 for the first three minutes—and it is *not possible* to be charged for *less* than three minutes. If the party I'm calling, however, returns the call from a private phone it costs only 31 cents for one minute and 17 cents per minute thereafter. No matter what time of day I use a coin phone, I have to pay a *minimum* of $2.35 to call Los Angeles from Philadelphia. The same call made from a private phone at night on a weekend costs 21 cents for the first minute and 16 cents for each additional minute. With such a rate structure, it is no wonder that so many prearranged, coded messages are called in from pay phones to private phones as part of various schemes designed to beat the system.

A Fundamental Right

It is not inconceivable that in this century basic telephone service, like health services, might come to be regarded as a fundamental right provided by government. While it might seem ridiculous to AT&T economists that telephones be provided free to aged or poor people, how much paid-in-full long-distance calling by relatives and friends would this pro-

note? Maybe this is a simplistic notion, but if AT&T ever even considers proposals like this it is keeping them secret. The lack of a more open attitude is part of the company's basic problem.

I would also like to know by what date AT&T forecasts that a call between any two points in the United States will be a local call. The present distinctions of long-distance vs. local are absurd when you consider that it is often cheaper to call from Philadelphia to Los Angeles than it is from Philadelphia to a suburb just a few miles away. If the idea of a single, low charge for a phone call no matter what the distance involved seems premature, consider this. A variety of companies which offer on-line computer services already enable their customers to access their computers through the equivalent of a local phone call even though the computer may be located thousands of miles away. This is done through such communications networks as TYMESHARE. This is the same type of access ISI® provides on its incoming toll-free lines, which eliminates long-distance charges for our customers.

I also do not understand the inability of Ma Bell's computer to deal with the digital information contained in one's telephone credit card number. It would be eminently more efficient to dial your credit card number than to recite it like a robot (not too slow and not too fast) to an operator who is merely dialing or keying the same information you could have keyed yourself. And why can't existing technology be used to eliminate operators from collect calls? Collect calls could be preceded by a simple code. This would activate a tape recording advising the recipient that the call can be refused by simply hanging up. Most such calls would not have to be operator-assisted if one could dial in such a way that the called number would be the one charged.

And remember how long it took before Ma Bell installed telephones that do not require a coin just to reach the operator, police or other emergency aid? For decades before this was done in the United States, Europeans were able to reach the operator or make local calls without depositing a coin in *advance*. I find it hard to swallow the technological backwardness of the necessity of having the proper coins—and the inconvenience when one loses the coins because of an error in dialing or some peculiarity of the telephone system, which can never be perfect in its performance. In the United Kingdom you can still make a local call by depositing two pence *after* someone answers the phone. If I have to pay Ma Bell in advance, a nickel is as far as I want to go.

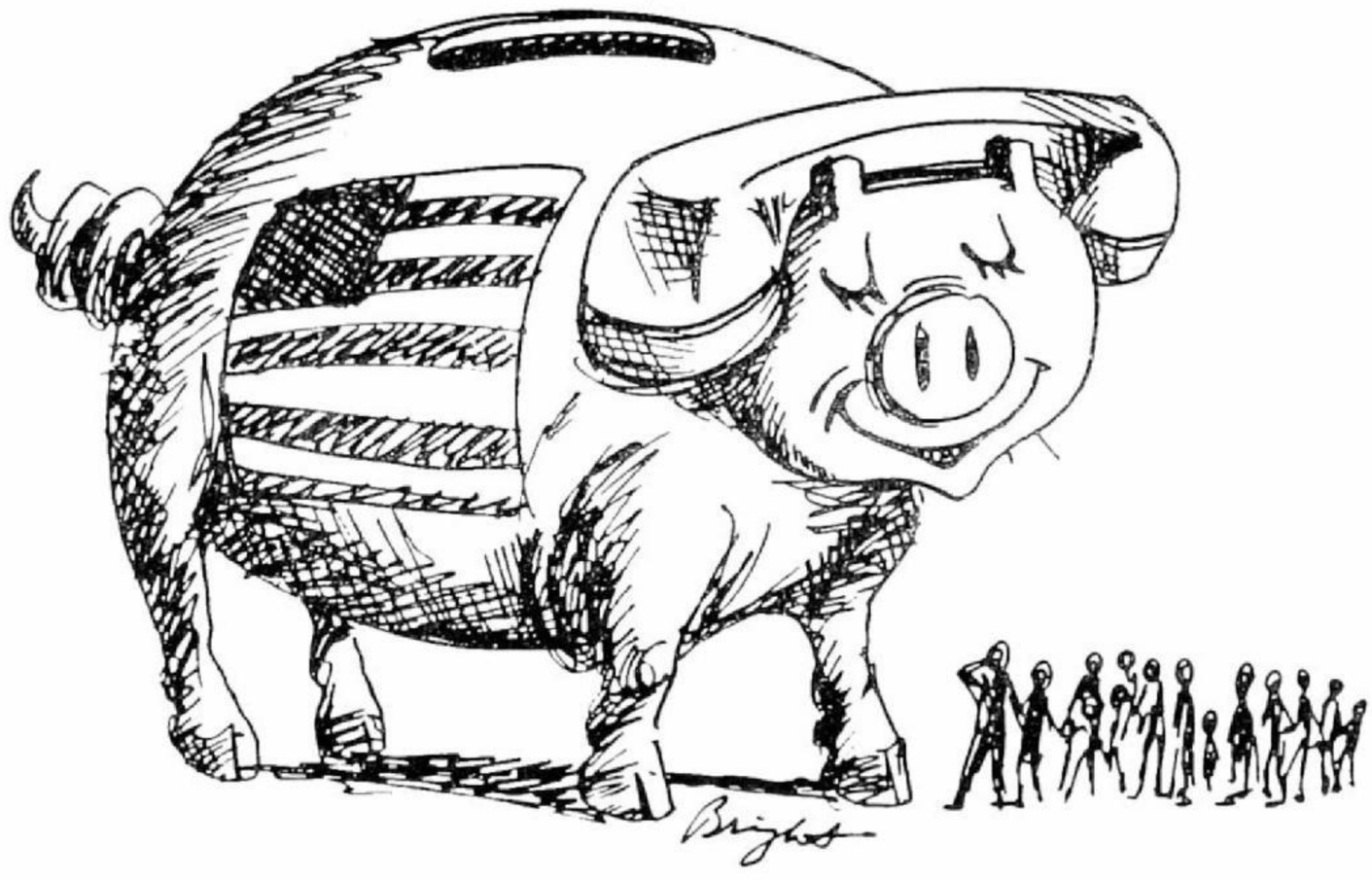
Despite my knowledge that the scientists at Bell Laboratories are making substantial contributions to better communications, I find it hard to believe that there are insuperable technical barriers to the implementation of completely automatic telephone service. While it is impressive to learn that 16,000 people are employed at Bell Labs, I am not impressed that the Bell system spends only one percent of its revenue on research.

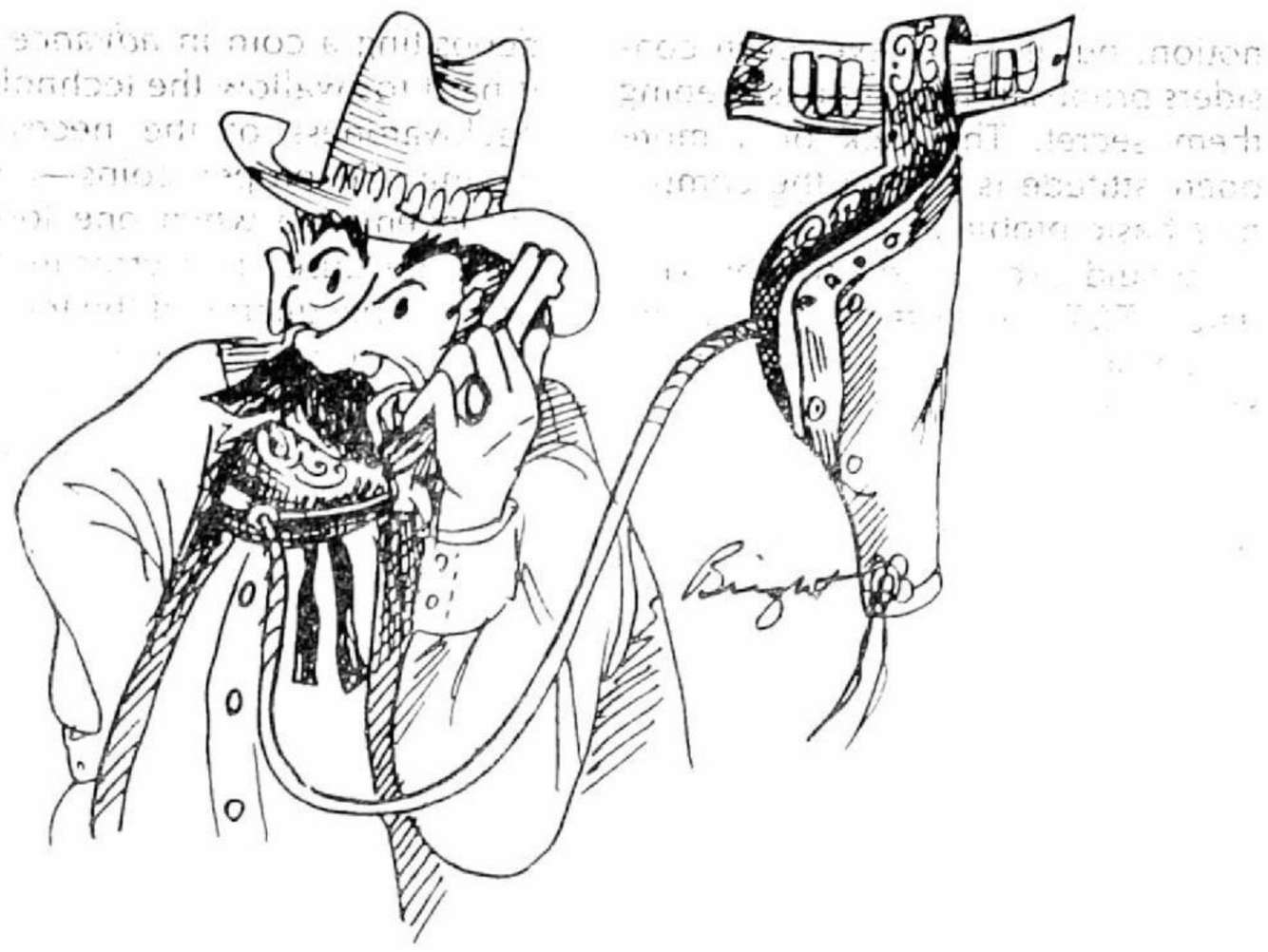
William G. Sharwell, vice-president of AT&T's long-term planning, claims that costs, not lack of innovations, have impeded the pace of communications technology. Others offer different reasons. Bell's monopoly is economically inefficient, according to Richard B. Long, president of the North American Telephone Association, a group of manufacturers, suppliers, and others who produce telephone equipment attached to AT&T lines. Long charges that lack of competition has kept Bell from developing innovations as rapidly as might be expected.[1]

Proposed Legislation

When one sees how hard AT&T works at preserving its monopoly status, there is a ring of truth to Long's complaint. Last year AT&T arranged to have a series of bills introduced in the U.S. Congress. These bills, collectively called the "Consumer Communications Reform Act," would give the telephone company virtual control over all the country's electronic communications.[2]

Under the proposed legislation, each state (instead of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)) would decide what devices may be connected to telephone lines. Companies providing private phone service to businesses would have to prove that they would not duplicate services that present phone companies provide or *could* provide. Private companies would also have to prove that the revenues they might drain off would not force existing phone companies to increase consumer rates, and that the private equipment would not technically impair the existing telephone network. What's more, existing phone companies would be immune to antitrust suits. Thus they





could buy out the competitors driven out of business by the legislation. The stated purpose of this immunity is to "protect" the customers of competitors who might otherwise lose service.

If this act is passed, the long-run consequences are even more serious since it would eliminate choice in future telecommunications systems. The most important aspect of this for consumers would involve information terminals attached to home phone lines to allow electronic mail, checkless financial transactions, remote shopping, electronic newspapers, and much more. Explosive growth is expected in this area.

In the second quarter of 1976 alone, AT&T reported spending $1,040,009 to lobby for this legislation. It is no wonder, then, that 102 representatives and 9 senators have been willing to sponsor the various bills involved.

Our dependence on information and its transmission is becoming more crucial in our economy. Today more of the U.S. gross national product evolves in the information sector than in the production of tangible goods.[3] Economists Manley R. Irwin of the University of New Hampshire and Steven C. Johnson of the National Research Council have written that

> policy decisions as to what information services are provided, who provides them and at what prices, go to the heart of tomorrow's economic infrastructure. The stakes, markets, and investment are incalculable. It is in this context that the public policy issues surrounding telecommunications should be considered. And it is in this context that the merits of a policy of competition and monopoly in telecommunications should be debated and resolved.[4]

Let's return to more prosaic concerns.

Ma Bell has turned a deaf ear to many consumer issues. For example, certain groups want a married woman's name listed in phone directories on an equal basis with her husband's name. The company wants to list the woman's name instead of her husband's or provide a separate entry for an additional fee. It claims that directories would be too expensive and bulky if additional names were included free. No doubt more names will add cost and size to directories, but wouldn't such listings also increase the use of telephone service? Typically, it seems that Ma Bell has not handled this issue in a manner designed to improve service and increase its overall business.

The New York State Public Utilities Commission recently ordered the New York Telephone Company to tell new customers about the cheapest forms of telephone service and to allow present customers to switch to the cheaper forms without paying for the change. The order was the result of numerous complaints from consumers about the telephone company's former negligence in this matter. Before, phone company sales representatives often pushed sales of package deals of three or four phones with luxury features.[5]

With such a never-ending litany of abuses, my personal feeling is that there should be an elected panel of consumer-oriented ombudsmen to help regulate the telephone industry. The FCC and state regulatory agencies are hopelessly inadequate. It would also help if consumers were better represented on the board of directors of AT&T and the individual state telephone companies.

But even Ma Bell tries to do good now and then. Last year it received so many complaints from overseas travellers overcharged by hotelkeepers for trans-Atlantic phone calls that it launched a campaign called Teleplan to curb the problems. For example, travellers were charged $70 for a $17 call from Berlin to the United States, $90 for a $15 call from Paris, and $686 for $270 worth of calls from Beirut. E. E. Carr, director of overseas administration for AT&T's Long Lines Department, said one European hotelkeeper admitted to earning $35,000 extra in one season by overcharging for overseas phone calls.

Under Teleplan, AT&T pledges to promote travel to the countries involved and the countries are expected to charge reasonably uniform rates for overseas calls. As a frequent user of overseas calls I appreciate Ma Bell's concern; but I'll be even happier when they figure out how to find me another dime when my last one has dropped into the box and I need to make another call before my train leaves.

Notes

1. G. Moneyhun, "Ma Bell Bids for Share of Computer Field," *Christian Science Monitor* 69 (Jan. 20, 1977), 13.

2. *Consumer Reports*, "Ma Bell's Consumer Reform Bill," 42 (Jan. 1977), 40-3; and M. R. Benjamin and W. H. Read, "Ma Bell Fights for Her Monopoly," *New York Times Magazine*, Nov. 28, 1977, p. 33.

3. D. Farber and P. Baran, "The Convergence of Computing and Telecommunications Systems," *Science* 195 (1977), 1166-9.

4. M. R. Irwin and S. C. Johnson, "The Information Economy and Public Policy," *Science* 195 (1977), 1170-4.

5. F. Cerra, "Commission Orders New York Telephone to Inform Customers of Cheapest Service," *New York Times*, April 25, 1977, p. 55.

The Power Control Group, the New York Times and Jim Garrison

by Richard E. Sprague

The June 20, 1978 editorial column of the New York Times contained the attached item about Jim Garrison and Clay Shaw. If there were any lingering doubts about the Power Control Group's[1] influence at the Times, this editorial removed them. It is inconceivable that the regular writers of the Times' editorial columns would, by themselves, produce such a piece. Fletcher Prouty has said that somewhere in the basement of the Pentagon or in an old building in Virginia, there are a group of writers producing this kind of editorial for all of the media controlled by the PCG.

Most of the writers, editors and owners at the Times would not even remember that Garrison brought perjury charges against Clay Shaw and that the federal courts blocked the perjury prosecution. The words in the editorial were carefully chosen with detailed knowledge and memory by the PCG specialists on Jim Garrison and Clay Shaw to attempt, once more, to influence the public prior to open hearings by the Select Committee on Assassinations. Rumors have it that the hearings may begin in July or August and Garrison himself firmly belives the Committee's findings will completely vindicate him and prove Shaw's guilt for once and for all.

Thus the Times' comments are timely as always and indicate

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[1] See "Taking of America 1-2-3" for a definition of Power Control Group.

the probability of a new PCG campaign developing to discredit the Committee in advance of public hearings.

Anyone following the Shaw-Garrison case closely will recognize the distortions of fact and misleading statements in the Times editorial. For example, Shaw, as always, is portrayed as that poor, put upon, innocent and harassed businessman. Even the Times editors certainly know that Victor Marchetti has exposed Shaw's connections with the CIA, and Richard Helms' strenuous efforts to protect and defend Shaw during the Garrison investigation and during his trial. This image of Shaw was created for him by his PCG masters as soon as he was arrested in 1967, and has been perpetuated ever since. A small crack in the image is allowed to creep into this PCG editorial by the admission that Shaw was a homosexual. Prior to his death, and before gay rights became popular Shaw's supporters never did admit that.

A second example is the statement that Garrison brought the perjury charges against Shaw -- "for denying guilt on the witness stand at his trial --." If A. M. Rosenthal had prepared the editorial, he would certainly not have made that kind of error. The perjury charges, as everyone knows, were for denying that Shaw had ever met or known David Ferrie. Photographs of the two men together at homosexual parties taken in 1959, coupled with the testimony of a dozen witnesses who had seen them together, would have convicted Shaw of perjury if the courts had permitted the case to go to trial.

A third example is the statement that Shaw was selected for prosecution because of his vulnerability, being a homosexual. A careful review of the trial transcript or the New Orleans Times Picayune account, which is nearly as accurate, shows that Shaw's homosexuality and the evidence about his strange habits acquired from his home after his arrest was never once mentioned or introduced during the trial.

Garrison had more than ten homosexual witnesses, all of whom knew Clay Shaw in his other personality and knew that Shaw and Ferrie were lovers, several of whom were also Shaw's boy friends. Garrison made a decision not to call any of them and not to use the homosexual aspects of Shaw's life in the trial.

Perhaps the PCG is unhappy over the recent events mentioned in the editorial. The Supreme Court voted 6 to 3, for Garrison and against the Shaw estate on Shaw's suit against Garrison brought because of the perjury indictment. Garrison meanwhile has been elected to the Louisiana Court of Appeals after losing an election for district attorney in the early 1970's because the PCG put up a candidate against Jim and financed his entire campaign.

What the Times does not point out is that the Court of Appeals is the highest court in Louisiana and a very powerful body. Jim Garrison is suddenly back in a better drivers seat, in terms of fighting the PCG, than he was when he was district attorney. The voters of Orleans Parish in New Orleans have always known that Jim is O.K. and was being framed by

someone. They read the New Orleans Times Picayune account of the Shaw Trial, rather than the New York Times version, and they know that Clay Shaw was guilty. They also knew that Jim was innocent of pin ball machine bribery and income tax evasion charges made by the Nixon administration. All of this, plus the rumors that the Select Committee team in New Orleans has found that Jim's evidence against Shaw, Ferrie and others is solid, must be creating panic in the PCG's house.

With Jim Garrison on the Louisiana court that, in the past, always rejected his appeals, a new D.A. in New Orleans might take the bull by the horns and open prosecutory cases against the New Orleans conspirators who are still alive.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 1978

Clay Shaw's Lost Cause

The Supreme Court has ruled that the death in 1974 of Clay Shaw, a New Orleans businessman who once faced preposterous charges of conspiring to assassinate President Kennedy, also meant the death of his civil lawsuit against former District Attorney Jim Garrison. The sad result is that Mr.Garrison will not be brought to judgment for prosecutorial abuses that injured the reputation of an innocent man for a petty purpose: to build a conspiracy theory and discredit the Warren Commission.

Mr. Shaw was acquitted in 1969 after a bizarre trial at which the prosecutor produced a series of unbelievable witnesses who attempted to link the accused man to Lee Harvey Oswald. Not chastened by the verdict, District Attorney Garrison brought perjury charges against Mr. Shaw — for denying guilt on the witness stand at his trial.

At that point even the Federal courts — which had given the district attorney the benefit of assuming good faith — found bad faith and blocked the prosecution.

What has now killed the Shaw suit is a quirk in the Federal law designed to redress official infringement of individual rights. The statute is silent on whether such suits survive the death of the plaintiff. Louisiana state law, which the Supreme Court says must apply, allows such suits to proceed only on behalf of surviving relatives. Mr. Shaw, a homosexual who many think was selected for prosecution because of his vulnerability, left no survivors.

Justice Blackmun, writing for the dissenters in the 6-to-3 decision, argued for a broader reading of the Federal law, an interpretation that would better serve "the great purpose" of civil rights laws. He called for Congressional action to restore the deterrent effect of potential damage suits in such situations. He is right; cases like this, and officials like Jim Garrison, should be judged on their merits regardless of the idiosyncrasies of state laws. A judgment of sorts has come from the New Orleans voters: they have just elected Mr. Garrison to the Louisiana Court of Appeals.

"Cattle! Do you know where your calves are?"

ELSIE! WHERE IS THAT BEAUREGARD?
IT'S GETTING LATE!
PHOENIX TIMES
OH ELMER... I DO HOPE HE ISN'T OUT SNIFFING GLUE AGAIN!
MAMA! PAPA! BEAUREGARD'S OUTSIDE... HE'S GONE TO PIECES!
COWABUNGA! SOMEONE'S SURGICALLY REMOVED HIS EAR... AND WAZOO!
WELL-HEAT UP THE BROILER. IT'S BURGERS TONIGHT!
IF IT'S BORDEN'S IT'S GOT TO BE GOOD!
Avoid unwanted and tragic Cattle Mutilations in your family!
WATCH FOR THESE WARNING SIGNS: 1) NO FOOTPRINTS, 2) U.F.O. SIGHTINGS, 3) SURGICAL INCISIONS, 4) NO BLOOD, 5) MISSING ORGANS, 6) RADIATION...
BEWARE! THIS MYSTERIOUS MENACE CAN STRIKE AT ANY TIME!

BOOK REVIEWS

AND WE ARE ALL MORTAL: NEW EVIDENCE AND ANALYSIS IN THE ASSASSINATION OF JOHN F. KENNEDY BY GEORGE MICHAEL EVICA; WEST HARTFORD, CONN.: UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD, 1978, 465 PAGES (INCL. 116 PAGES OF NOTES), $8.95 PPD.

This is the book for that dwindling percentage of the American public which still doubts a conspiracy killed President Kennedy. Professor Evica's thoroughness is evidenced by the index, which lists every major character involved in this turning point in American history. The clear picture of the CIA's affair with the Mob, as the FBI plays both ends and the middle, engrossing its director's "Seat of Government", is overwhelmingly documented and deserves diligent scrutiny.

The executive action team in Dealey Plaza having been listed elsewhere, Evica concentrates on filling in the organizational chart of the echelons above those paid hands. Everywhere, Jack Ruby scurries to and fro between intelligence and counter-intelligence, between crime and counter-crime, always true to his first and highest-paying love: J. Edgar Hoover. -- R.B. Cutler

THE ASSASSINATION OF ROBERT F. KENNEDY: A SEARCHING LOOK AT THE CONSPIRACY AND THE COVER-UP 1968-1978 BY WILLIAM W. TURNER AND JONN G. CHRISTIAN; NEW YORK: RANDOM HOUSE, 1978, 397 PAGES, 16 P. OF ILLUS., $12.95. FOREWORD BY DR. ROBERT J. JOLING.

This is the first major book on the most bizarre of the 1960's assassinations, and it is very likely to become the definitive work in its field in the years to come. Christian is a veteran student of the RFK case, and former FBI agent Bill Turner, author of the best-selling Hoover's FBI and a number of criminology texts, should already be familiar to students of the RFK assassination and the attempted murder of George C. Wallace.

The authors' reconstruction of the ballistics evidence is painstaking and accounts for 14 or 15 shots in the hotel pantry (Sirhan's gun held 8 shots), although much of the physical evidence in this case has unaccountably been destroyed by the LAPD. The facts and circumstances point strongly to Thane Eugene Cesar, a right-wing, Kennedy-hating Ace Security cop, as the real RFK assassin. For the first time, evidence is also presented of a third gun, with Sirhan firing unloaded cartridges so as not to wound Cesar.

Much of the book's attention is focused on an enigmatic figure, Reverend Jerry Owen, "The Walking Bible", and his connections with Sirhan. The authors also point to the late William J. Bryan, Jr., "America's Most Famous Medical Hypnotist", as the possible programmer of Sirhan.

The book's one glaring fault is its omission of any mention of Ted Charach or his pioneering RFK-conspiracy film, "The Second Gun". Rivalry?

DALLAS CONSPIRACY BY NORD DAVIS JR.; THE AUTHOR, BOX 29, TOPTON, NC 28781, MIGHTY HUNTER EDITION FOURTH PRINTING, 1977, 20 PAGES, $1.00 (DONATION).

This booklet, already familiar to serious collectors, has recently been reprinted. It focuses attention on a mysterious, caped figure in Dealey Plaza whom the author believes fired all the shots from two silenced machine pistols. Say, who was that man in black, anyway?

COSMIC TRIGGER: THE FINAL SECRET OF THE ILLUMINATI BY ROBERT ANTON WILSON; NEW YORK: POCKET BOOKS, 1978, 288 PAGES, $1.95. ILLUSTRATED BY JOHN THOMPSON.

What do Tim Leary, Sirius, Jim Garrison, the number 23, an obscure African tribe, the Bavarian Illuminati, and Kerry Thornley and the Discordians have in common? The key to immortality, for one thing. A lively, entertaining, and most illuminating book.

EVIDENCE OF CONSPIRACY: A 30-YEAR OVERVIEW BY R.B. CUTLER; THE AUTHOR, BOX 1465, MANCHESTER, MA., 1978, 40 PAGES, $6.00. (HARDCOVER).

This highly-recommended little book supplies the motives, names the names and is also profusely illustrated. Timely and urgent, it focuses mainly on the King assassination and cover-up. The M-1 flechette excerpt appears on the opposite page.

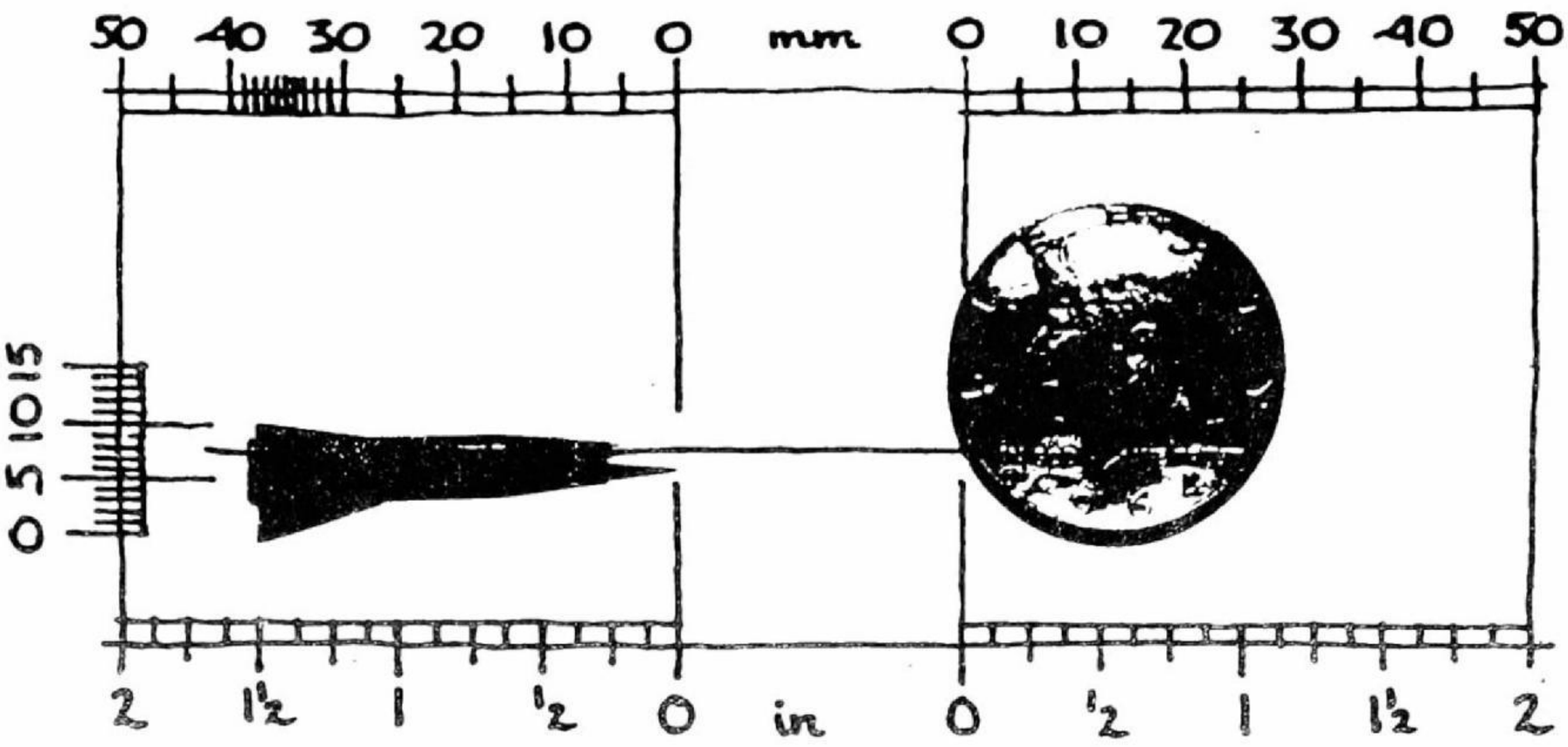

Figure 11: the M-1 Flêchette (Cushing photo)

This mini-rocket was the key item of the special weapons' system designed to fire a poison-carrier from the position close-in to the target. The launcher was hidden within the framework of an umbrella, engineered by C.A. Senseney at Ft. Detrick to fire in the open, vertical position.

Standing on the grassy knoll ahead of the limousine, the Umbrella Man, TUM, held this exotic weapon aloft for about 20 seconds to track, aim and launch the flêchette which caused the wound of entry in the President's throat. Dr. J J Humes removed it during autopsy, handed it to FBI agents Sibert and O'Neill who gave him a receipt for "a missile". (Post Mortum by Harold Weisberg, p 266). A photo of the flêchette sent to Humes, Senseney, Sibert and O'Neill for comment, remains unanswered.

We are all indebted to Rush Harp, Woodstock, NY who spotted and procured this flêchette at a recent gun convention in Hartford, CT. The rear fins, assumed to "pop up" in Figure 63, Seventy-Six Seconds, are fixed.

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KENNEDY COLLECTORS - We have books, tapes, and other items relating to the JFK assassination. Send for free list. M & A Bookdealers, P.O. Box 1962, Waco, Texas 76703.

RESEARCHER Steve Barber writes that he feels stranded in the Ohio wasteland, and would like to establish communications with like-minded researchers, particularly in his area. The address is: 55 Marvin Avenue, Shelby, Ohio 44875.

CONSPIRACY FEVER by Jacob Cohen, according to Macmillan Publishing Company publicist Ricka Kanter, "has been postponed from the Fall list and I do not know when it will appear." Too bad, Jake.

* *

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